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Amendments to the Claims: reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks: begin on page 12 of this paper.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

- 5b7
B1
A1
1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a call waiting priority alert service to a subscriber of a telephone line, the method comprising the steps of:
- associating ~~at least one priority code~~ a plurality of priority codes with a telephone number of the telephone line, wherein each of the plurality of priority codes is further associated with a priority level of a plurality of priority levels, each of the plurality of priority levels is associated with a priority alert signal;
 - receiving a call from a calling party who dialed the telephone number while the telephone line is engaged in a first communication session between the subscriber and a third party;
 - ~~selecting from~~ receiving a priority code provided by the calling party ~~a priority code;~~
 - determining whether the priority code provided by the calling party matches any of the at least one priority code plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number;
 - playing a priority alert signal associated with the priority code provided by the calling party to interfere with the first communication session if the priority code provided by the calling party matches any of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number; and

executing a default action if the priority code provided by the calling party does not match any of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number; and
establishing a second communication session between the calling party and the subscriber if the subscriber chooses to suspend the first communication session.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the priority code provided by the calling party is unique to the calling party.

A 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the priority code provided by the calling party ~~is was~~ previously provided by the subscriber to the calling party ~~and other priority callers.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the priority alert signal associated with the priority code provided by the calling party is a regular call waiting tone.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ playing an announcement for the calling party if the calling party does not provide any priority code.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ playing an announcement for the calling party if the priority code provided by the calling

party does not match any of the at least one priority code plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a priority call waiting ~~services~~ service to a subscriber of a telephone line, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

associating a telephone number of the telephone line with a plurality of priority codes, wherein each of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number represents a different priority level;

assigning a priority alert signal to each of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number;

receiving a call from a calling party dialing the telephone number while the telephone line is engaged in a first communication session between the subscriber and a third party;

~~soliciting from~~ receiving a priority code provided by the calling party ~~a priority code;~~

determining whether the priority code provided by the calling party matches any of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number;

playing a priority alert signal assigned to the priority code provided by the calling party if the priority code provided by the calling party matches one of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number; and

establishing a second communication session between the calling party and the subscriber if the subscriber chooses to suspend the first communication session.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein each priority alert signal assigned to each of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number is associated with a priority level represents a different calling party.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the calling party is provided by the subscriber with more than one of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein each of the more than one of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number represents a different priority level.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a priority call waiting alert service to a subscriber of a telephone line, the system comprising:

a service switching point switch in communication with the telephone line, wherein the service switching point switch is adapted configured to detect incoming calls intended for the subscriber when the subscriber is already engaged in a first communication session with a third party, and

a service control point processor in communication with the service switching point switch, wherein the service control point processor is adapted configured to review information associated with the subscriber,

wherein when the service switching point switch detects an incoming call intended for the subscriber from a calling party using a telephone number

associated with the telephone line while the subscriber is already engaged in the first communication session with the third party, the ~~service switching point switch~~ launches a query comprising a subscriber number of the subscriber,

wherein when the ~~service control point processor~~ receives the query, the ~~service control point processor~~ instructs the ~~service switching point switch~~ to solicit a priority code from the calling party without interfering with the first communication session,

wherein the ~~service control point processor~~ instructs the ~~service switching point switch~~ to interrupt ~~interrupts~~ the first communication session with a priority alert signal if ~~the a~~ priority code ~~supplied~~ provided by the calling party is recognized by the ~~service control point processor~~ to be one of a plurality of priority codes previously associated with the telephone number, wherein each of the plurality of priority codes is further associated with a priority level of a plurality of priority levels, each of the plurality of priority levels is associated with a priority alert signal,

wherein the ~~service switching point switch~~ then suspends the first communication session, and establishes a second communication session between the calling party and the subscriber if the subscriber chooses to suspend the first communication session.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the ~~service switching point switch~~ is provisioned with a trigger.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~12-11~~, wherein the ~~trigger is a terminating busy/no answer trigger~~ switch is a service switching point and the processor is a service control point.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the priority alert signal is a regular call waiting tone.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a call waiting priority alert service to a subscriber of a telephone line, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

associating ~~at least one priority code~~ two or more priority codes with a telephone number of the telephone line in a database ~~accessible to a service control point, wherein~~ each of the two or more priority codes is associated with a priority level of a plurality of priority levels, each of the plurality of priority levels is associated with a priority alert signal;

receiving ~~at a service switching point~~ a call from a calling party at the telephone line while the telephone line is engaged in a first communication session between the subscriber and a third party;

~~soliciting from~~ receiving a priority code provided by the calling party a priority code;

determining whether the priority code provided by the calling party matches any of the at least one priority code two or more priority codes associated with the telephone number;

playing a priority alert signal associated with the priority code provided by the calling party to interfere with the first communication session between the subscriber and the third party; and

establishing a second communication session between the calling party and the subscriber if the subscriber chooses to suspend the first communication session.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein ~~the service switching point comprises a trigger that is associated with the telephone line~~ the plurality of priority levels are associated with a plurality of priority alert signals, wherein each of the plurality of priority signals represents a different calling party.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~16~~ 15, wherein ~~the trigger is one of a termination attempt trigger and a terminating busy/no answer trigger~~ the plurality of priority levels are associated with a plurality of priority alert signals, wherein each of the plurality of priority alert signals represents a different level of priority or urgency.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the priority code provided by the calling party is unique to the calling party.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the priority code provided by the calling party is one of several priority codes available to the calling party and wherein each of the several priority codes available to the calling party represents ~~represent~~ a different priority level.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a priority call waiting ~~services~~
service to a subscriber of a telephone line, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

associating a telephone number of the telephone line with a plurality of priority
codes, wherein each of the plurality of priority codes is further associated with a priority
level of a plurality of priority levels;

assigning a priority alert signal to each of the plurality of priority codes;

receiving a call ~~at a service switching point~~ from a calling party while the
telephone line is engaged in a first communication session between the subscriber and a
third party;

~~soliciting from~~ receiving a priority code provided by the calling party ~~a priority~~
code;

determining whether the priority code provided by the calling party matches any
of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number;

playing a priority alert signal assigned to the priority code provided by the calling
party if the priority code provided by the calling party matches one of the plurality of
priority codes associated with the telephone number; and

establishing a second communication session between the calling party and the
subscriber if the subscriber chooses to suspend the first communication session.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein ~~each of the plurality of~~
~~priority codes is associated with a priority level~~ the priority code provided by the calling
party is unique to the calling party.

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22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the calling party is provided by the subscriber with more than one of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein each of the more than one of the plurality of priority codes associated with the telephone number represents a different priority level.
